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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,224	03/06/2000	John C. Yundt-Pacheco	HEMA.69528	7948

7590 01/21/2003

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EXAMINER

SUN, XIUQUIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2863

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/519,224	YUNDT-PACHECO, JOHN C.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Xiujin Sun	2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14, 16, 19 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5646046) in view of Grace et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6334099 B1).

Fischer et al. teach a method for modifying data from a group of laboratory instruments (col. 26, lines 56-67; col. 27, lines 1-11) which comprises the steps of: obtaining data indicative of testing specimen outputs of a laboratory instrument (col. 6, lines 7-9; col. 7, lines 3-32; col. 26, lines 57-67 and col. 27, lines 1-11); and normalizing the data according to a reference (col. 7, lines 3-32; col. 19, lines 59-67; col. 20, lines 61-67; col. 21, lines 1-67; col. 22, lines 1-42; col. 26, lines 57-67 and col. 27, lines 1-12).

The teachings of Fischer et al. further include: receiving the laboratory instrument outputs via a network/Internet communication link (col. 20, lines 25-26); receiving the laboratory instrument outputs via a manual input (col. 13, lines 64-67). The normalization step taught by Fischer et al. includes: obtaining control specimen data and generating a normalization curve according to the control specimen data (col. 20,

lines 61-67; col. 21, lines 1-67; and col. 22, lines 1-42). The Fischer method further teaches that the normalization curve can be generated by applying a linear regression, and/or a nonlinear regression, and/or a spline to a group of control specimen data and measuring the curve error for each curve (col. 21, lines 33-47; lines 57-58; and col. 22, lines 14-42); and adjusting the laboratory instrument data according to the obtained normalization curve (col. 21, lines 32-43). The Fischer method further teaches returning the optimum curve with the minimized curve error as the normalization curve (col. 8, line 2-14; col. 22, lines 39-42). The normalization step taught by Fischer et al. further includes: mapping the testing specimen group output according to the normalization curve (col. 21, lines 35-43; col. 27, lines 8-11); the normalization curve is generated for a single laboratory instrument (col. 5, 57-64; col. 21, lines 32-43; col. 26, lines 66-67), and can further be applied to each instrument in a group of laboratory instruments (col. 26, lines 60-67). The Fischer method further teaches: outputting the normalized data (col. 3, lines 58-59; and col. 21, lines 36-41); and a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1 (col. 7, lines 59-62; col. 8, lines 14-28).

Fischer et al. do not mention explicitly: obtaining data indicative of testing specimen outputs of a group of laboratory instruments; and normalizing the data according to a control group.

Grace et al. teach the steps and means of obtaining data indicative of outputs of a group of lab instruments; and normalizing the data according to a control group (Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 2-24, lines 38-41; and col. 8, lines 10-25).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the Grace group data collection and normalization technique in the Fischer method in order reduce the experiment-to-experiment variability in data obtained from a group of lab instruments to allow comparative data analysis without confusion or loss of confidence (abstract and col. 2, lines 58-63).

3. Claims 21-36, 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. in view of Grace et al.;

The Fischer and Grace combination teaches a method and system that include the subject matter discussed above except that: modifying data from more than one group of laboratory instruments.

In view of the teaching of Fischer et al. (col. 26, lines 56-67; col. 27, lines 1-11; col. 20, lines 20-26; col. 20, lines 61-67; col. 21, lines 1-67; and col. 22, lines 1-42) and Grace et al. (abstract; Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 2-24, lines 38-41; and col. 8, lines 10-25), one having ordinary skill in the art would be able to apply the same technique to carry out the method for modifying instrument results to other groups of laboratory instruments.

The mere application of a known method to more than one group of laboratory instruments by those skilled in the art would have been obvious.

4. Claims 45-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. in view of Grace et al.;

The Fischer and Grace combination teaches a method and system that include the subject matter discussed above except that: standardizing instrument results from a plurality of laboratory instruments.

It would have been obvious that the procedure for standardizing instrument results recited in claims 45-54 is a modification from the normalization procedure recited in claim 1, by adding the step of adjusting the instrument data according to the normalization curve. In view of the teachings disclosed by Fischer et al. (col. 26, lines 56-67; col. 27, lines 1-11; col. 20, lines 20-26; col. 20, lines 61-67; col. 21, lines 1-67; and col. 22, lines 1-42) and Grace et al. (abstract; Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 2-24, lines 38-41; and col. 8, lines 10-25), one having ordinary skill in the art would be able to apply the same technique to carry out the method for standardizing the outputs from a group of laboratory instruments.

5. Claims 20 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fischer et al. and Grace et al.;

The Fischer and Grace combination teaches a method and system that includes the subject matter discussed above except that: the structure of the computer system recited in claims 20 and 55. The Examiner takes official notice that a computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor is well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include such a computer system in the Fischer and Grace combination in order to execute the steps recited in claims 1 and 45.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 15, 17-18, 34, 37-38 and 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Reinv.
7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14, 16, 19-33, 35-36, 39-43 and 45- 55 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-14, 16, 19-33, 35-36, 39-43 and 45-55 are rejected as new art (U.S. Pat. No. 6334099 B1) has been found to teach the steps of obtaining data from a group of instruments and then normalizing the data according to a control group. For detailed response, please refer to the paragraphs 2-15 set forth above in this Office Action.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiuqin Sun whose telephone number is (703)305-3467. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (703)308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9318 for regular communications and (703)872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

NS
XS

January 11, 2003

J Barlow
John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800